

2/20/13

Public Health Committee public hearing

Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson, Committee Members,

I am Holly Harlow and I am speaking in support of proposed bill 59 concerning access to original birth certificates (OBC) by adopted persons.

Bill 59, First and foremost will restore the right of Connecticut adopted citizens to autonomously obtain their OBC because until 1975, OBC's were not kept secret from the people they belonged to. Simply stated, it will release Connecticut's adult adopted citizens to access their personal information as all non-adopted persons do.

But perhaps of particular interest to this committee is the access to family health history that bill 59 could afford. It is common wisdom that family history is vital to the management of our own health and is taken for granted by those of us raised in our original families. To continue to deny adopted persons the chance for this access is unfair, unjust, unhealthy and potentially dangerous

As a birthmother myself, I understand that there may be mothers from decades past who are still in pain from their adoption experience. If these mothers desire no potential contact from their now adult children, the contact preference form that is part of this proposal gives them a vehicle to make their wishes known.

Proposed bill 59 is not just a good idea; I believe it is good law. Please support proposed bill 59.

Holly Harlow

11 Edmund Street

Newington CT 06111